

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 037518 TOSEC 020111  
ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NEA-10 SS-15 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 NSCE-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 SSM-05 /043 R

DRAFTED BY: S/PRS:JMORDWAY  
APPROVED BY: S/PRS:JMORDWAY  
NEA/P:GSHERMAN  
S/S:RPERITO

-----180648 090033 /10/21

O 180450Z FEB 77 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USDEL SECRETARY NIACT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 037518 TOSEC 020111

C O R R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 16 LINE 4 OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SOPN

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON CIA PAYMENTS TO HUSSEIN

HEREWITH FULL TEXT OF WASH POST PAGE ONE LEAD ARTICLE  
FROM EARLY EDITION OF FEB 18.

HEADLINE: "CIA PAID MILLIONS TO JORDAN'S KING HUSSEIN"

BEGIN TEXT: THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY FOR 20 YEARS  
HAS MADE SECRET ANNUAL PAYMENTS TOTALING MILLIONS OF DOLLARS  
TO KING HUSSEIN OF JORDAN, THE WASHINGTON POST HAS LEARNED.

THE PAYOFFS WERE REPORTED LAST YEAR TO PRES FORD AS AN  
IMPROPRIETY BY THE INTELLIGENCE OVERSIGHT BOARD, A  
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THREE-MEMBER PANEL SET UP BY FORD TO CURB CIA ABUSES.

PRES FORD TOOK NO STEPS TO STOP THE COVERT PAYMENTS.  
LAST YEAR HUSSEIN WAS PAID APPROXIMATELY DOLLARS 750,000  
BY THE CIA.

PRES CARTER LEARNED OF THE PAYOFFS EARLIER THIS WEEK AFTER

THIS NEWSPAPER BEGAN ITS INVESTIGATION. HE ORDERED THAT THE PAYMENTS BE STOPPED.

THE SECRET ARRANGEMENT WITH HUSSEIN HAD NOT BEEN DISCLOSED TO CARTER BY THE CIA OR BY ANY MEMBER OF THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION, INCLUDING PRES FORD, FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A KISSINGER, OR FORMER CIA DIRECTOR GEORGE BUSH.

CARTER WAS "DISTRESSED" THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN TOLD, ACCORDING TO WELL-PLACED SOURCES, AND SEES THE SOLUTION TO CIA ABUSES AS QUICK CONFIRMATION OF HIS NOMINEE AS CIA DIRECTOR, NAVY ADM. STANSFIELD TURNER.

IN ADDITION, THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE CREATED LAST YEAR TO OVERSEE THE CIA APPARENTLY WAS NOT GIVEN THE FULL STORY BY THE FORD ADMINISTRATION OF THE SECRET PAYMENTS TO HUSSEIN.

ONE OF THE MOST CLOSELY HELD AND SENSITIVE OF ALL CIA COVERT ACTIVITIES, THE PAYMENTS TO HUSSEIN WERE MADE UNDER THE CODEWORD PROJECT NAME OF "NO BEEF." THEY WERE USUALLY DELIVERED IN CASH TO THE KING BY THE CIA STATION CHIEF IN AMMAN.

AS JUSTIFICATION FOR THE DIRECT CASH PAYMENTS TO HUSSEIN, THE CIA CLAIMED THAT HUSSEIN WAS ALLOWING US INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES TO OPERATE FREELY IN HIS STRATEGICALLY PLACED MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRY.  
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HUSSEIN HIMSELF PROVIDED INTELLIGENCE TO THE CIA AND FORWARDED MONEY FROM THE PAYMENTS TO OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO PROVIDED INTELLIGENCE OR COOPERATED WITH THE CIA.

NONETHELESS, SOME CIA OFFICIALS CONSIDERED THE PAYMENTS NOTHING MORE THAN "BRIBES" AND REPORTED THE MATTER TO PRESIDENT FORD'S OVERSIGHT PANEL.

HUSSEIN, ACCORDING TO SOURCES, CONSIDERS THE PAYMENTS SIMPLY ANOTHER FORM OF US ASSISTANCE.

WITHIN THE CIA, THE "NO BEEF" PROJECT HAS BEEN CONSIDERED ONE OF ITS MOST SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS, GIVING THE US GREAT LEVERAGE AND UNUSUAL ACCESS TO THE LEADER OF A SOVEREIGN STATE.

THE PAYMENTS WERE FIRST MADE TO HUSSEIN IN 1957 DURING

THE EISENHOWER ADMINISTRATION. THE INITIAL PAYMENTS APPARENTLY RAN IN THE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS BUT THEY WERE SHARPLY CURTAILED TO THE DOLLAR 750,000 LEVEL LAST YEAR.

HUSSEIN WAS ONLY 21 WHEN HE FIRST BECAME A BENEFICIARY OF CIA FUNDS. IT WAS A TIME WHEN JORDAN WAS VIRTUALLY A WARD OF THE US AND HUSSEIN HAD LITTLE MONEY TO SUPPORT HIS LIFESTYLE, WHICH EARNED HIM THE REPUTATION AS A "PLAYBOY PRINCE."

HUSSEIN HAS A WELL-PUBLICIZED TASTE FOR SPORTS CARS AND AIRPLANES. AS ONCE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, THE CIA HAS PROVIDED HUSSEIN WITH FEMALE COMPANIONS. THE AGENCY ALSO PROVIDED BODYGUARDS FOR HUSSEIN'S CHILDREN WHEN THEY WERE ABROAD IN SCHOOL.

SOME MONEY FROM THE MOST RECENT CIA PAYMENTS TO HUSSEIN  
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OVER THE YEARS, HUSSEIN HAS MAINTAINED FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE US AND HIS COUNTRY HAS BEEN THE RECIPIENT OF SUBSTANTIAL MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID -- ABOUT DOLLARS 200 MILLION IN LOANS AND GRANTS LAST YEAR ALONE.

THE "NO BEEF" PAYMENTS TO HUSSEIN WERE MADE OUTSIDE THE CONVENTIONAL CHANNEL OF MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.

WELL-PLACED SOURCES SAID THAT NONETHELESS THE US HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO DIRECT HUSSEIN'S OVERALL POLICY DECISIONS. HE HAS NOT BEEN A "PUPPET," THE SOURCES SAID, BUT HE HAS RARELY DRIFTED OUTSIDE THE US ORBIT.

IN LATE 1974 THE CIA BECAME THE FOCUS OF SEVERAL GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATIONS INTO ALLEGED ABUSES, AND IN FEBRUARY, 1976, PRES FORD DIRECTED A REORGANIZATION OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

PART OF A FEB 18, 1976, EXECUTIVE ORDER SET UP THE INTELLIGENCE OVERSIGHT BOARD WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS WAS TO "REPORT IN A TIMELY MANNER TO THE PRESIDENT ANY ACTIVITIES THAT RAISE SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT PROPRIETY."

THE OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL IN THE CIA WAS ASSIGNED BY THE EXECUTIVE ORDER TO REPORT ANY ALLEGED ABUSES TO THE OVERSIGHT PANEL.

THE GENERAL COUNSEL SOON MADE SUCH A REPORT ON THE HUSSEIN PAYMENTS, AND CALLED THEM POSSIBLY IMPROPER.

THE PANEL APPOINTED BY FORD INCLUDED FORMER UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE ROBERT D. MURPHY, FORMER SECRETARY OF THE ARMY STEPHEN AILES, AND BUSINESS BOOK PUBLISHER LEO CHERNE.

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BY LAST SUMMER THE OVERSIGHT PANEL HAD MADE A FORMAL REPORT TO PRES FORD ON THE PAYMENTS, CONCLUDING THAT THEY WERE IMPROPER. FORD READ THE REPORT BUT ORDERED NO ACTION TAKEN.

SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH KING HUSSEIN TODAY DURING VANCE'S SIX-NATION TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST.

JORDAN IS WIDELY CONSIDERED A MODERATING INFLUENCE ON THE PALESTINIANS AND A KEY TO ANY LASTING MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT.

THE COUNTRY IS CONSIDERED A VITAL PART OF ANY REALISTIC OPTION FOR GETTING THE PALESTINIANS REPRESENTED AT A FUTURE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE.

GEOGRAPHICALLY, JORDAN IS IN A CENTRAL POSITION, SHARING BORDERS WITH ISRAEL, SYRIA, IRAQ, AND SAUDI ARABIA. ISRAEL'S ENTIRE EASTERN BORDER TOUCHES JORDAN.

HUSSEIN'S DECISIONS HAVE OFTEN BEEN HIGHLY COMPATIBLE WITH US AND ISRAELI INTERESTS. FOR EXAMPLE, HE EXPELLED THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION FROM JORDAN IN 1970, THOUGH THIS ALSO HELPED HUSSEIN'S OWN DOMESTIC SITUATION.

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LAST WEEK HIS WIFE, QUEEN ALIA, 28, DIED IN A HELICOPTER  
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CRASH WHILE RETURNING FROM A HOSPITAL MERCY MISSION.

END TEXT

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /005 R

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APPROVED BY: S/S-O:AWOTTO

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TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 037518

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION USDEL SECRETARY, AMMAN FROM  
STATE FEB 18:

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END TEXT

HARTMAN UNQUOTE HARTMAN

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** SOPN, PFOR, JO, US, CIA, (HUSAYN), (VANCE, CYRUS R), (HUSSEIN, I)  
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Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
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